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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/629,820	07/31/2000	Makoto Esaki	HASE-0046	5230

7590 01/15/2002

Reed Smith Hazel & Thomas
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
McLean, VA 22042

EXAMINER

NELSON JR, MILTON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3636

DATE MAILED: 01/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/629,820

Applicant(s)
Esaki et al

Examiner
Milton Nelson, Jr.

Art Unit
3636



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 5, 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 3-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 20) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group 6, claims 1, 2 and 9 in Paper No. 5 is acknowledged. Claims 3-8 have been withdrawn from further consideration.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement filed November 5, 2001 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56© most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language (note documents 69108 and 143920).
4. The information disclosure statement filed on November 5, 2001 does not fully comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.98 because: Note the above paragraph. Since the submission appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH** from the date of this notice to supply the abovementioned omissions or corrections in the information disclosure statement. NO

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EXTENSION OF THIS TIME LIMIT MAY BE GRANTED UNDER EITHER 37

CFR 1.136(a) OR (b). Failure to timely comply with this notice will result in the abovementioned information disclosure statement being placed in the application file with the noncomplying information **not** being considered. See 37 CFR 1.97(I).

5. Applicant is advised that copending patent applications are not listed on the face of patents since they do not represent prior art. As such, the three applications (09337327; 09337,326; and 09337126) listed on the November 5, 2001 IDS have not been initialed. These applications have been reviewed by the Examiner, but will not be listed on the face of the instant application should it issue as a patent.

6. The information referred to in the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 31, 2000 has been considered as to the merits.

Specification

7. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 250 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 250 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

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8. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it includes reference to “means”.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

9. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

10. Claims 1, 2 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In each of the claims, several “or” recitations have been presented. Such fails to define that which Applicant intends to define as the instant invention. Line 11 of claim 2 is grammatically vague. Note the recitation “for adjustment an inclined angle”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

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12. Claims 1 and 2, as best understood with the above cited indefiniteness, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshida et al (5988751). Note the attachment members (11, 12), hinge pin (14), cam means (26), torsion spring (35), and support portion (33).

Allowable Subject Matter

13. Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Reclining structure for a vehicle seat is shown by each of Fourrey et al (5590931), Ganot (6164723), Yoshida (6024410), and Kato et al (4736986).

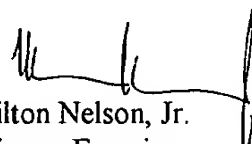
15. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Customer Service Representative at (703) 306-5771 or the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Milton Nelson, Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 308-2117. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 5:30 AM-3:00 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

The fax number for this Group is (703) 305-3597.

mn

January 13, 2002


Milton Nelson, Jr.
Primary Examiner